Embracing Health Equity – We Are Health Equity!

Throughout 2016, CPH staff will receive monthly Health Equity "News Blasts" to raise awareness on topics relevant to achieving optimal health for all. These are brought to you by the CPH Diversity & Equity Committee and the CPH Health Equity Section.

What are Health Inequities?

Health inequities are UNFAIR, UNJUST, and PREVENTABLE differences in disease, injury, violence or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by disadvantaged populations.

What Health Inequities Impact the LGBTQ Community?

Social determinants affecting the health of LGBTQ individuals largely relate to oppression and discrimination. Examples include:

- Legal discrimination in access to health insurance, employment, housing, marriage, adoption, and retirement benefits
- Lack of social programs targeted to and/or appropriate for LGBTQ youth, adults, and elders
- Shortage of health care providers who are knowledgeable and culturally competent in LGBTQ health

LGBTQ health requires specific attention from health care and public health professionals to address a number of inequities, including:

- LGBTQ youth are 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide[1].
- LGBTQ youth are more likely to be homeless[2].
- Lesbians are less likely to get preventive services for cancer[3].
- Gay men are at higher risk of HIV and other STDs, especially among communities of color[4].
- Lesbians and bisexual females are more likely to be overweight or obese[5].
- LGBTQ populations have the highest rates of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use[6].

Does CPH Embrace Health Equity in the LGBTQ Community?

 Absolutely! Columbus Public Health was named a **2016 Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality** and is one of only two health departments in the country to receive the coveted status. The designation signals to LGBT patients and allies that our department has met the foundational elements of LGBT patient-centered care.

As a participant in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Annual Healthcare Equality Index, over 60 different online, on-demand CME accredited LGBTQ training options are *free* to Columbus Public Health staff.   These training options include both interactive eLearning courses and recorded webinars. Topics range from the basics of LGBTQ Patient-Centered Care to more specialized topics for clinicians.

What are some ways *YOU* can Embrace Health Equity in LGBTQ Communities?

- Become familiar with the department's non-discrimination policy.
- Utilize the free Continuing Medical Education Training in LGBTQ Patient Centered Care.

✓ Click here for how to register for courses from *The Center for Affiliated Learning* (The CAL)
✓ Click here for how to register for courses from the *National LGBT Health Education Center*

If you register for any of these trainings/webinars, please be sure to use the following Facility ID and Security Code to complete the registration process:

Facility ID: ▉▉▉   **Security Code:** ▉▉

- Talk to your supervisor when you perceive barriers to the social determinants of health and health inequities among those you serve.

What is the *Access to Care Program*?

The Access to Care program works to address and provide leadership for community initiatives and system-based responses that address healthcare access issues. Through collaborative partnerships, the program provides health literacy education and resources to the community. This program oversees the resource room at CPH.

What is the Resource Room?: An area at CPH where clients can get assistance with health insurance and/or speak with a social worker.

Where is the Resource Room?: In the open computer area that houses rooms 119 E, F, and G

Who staffs the resource room?: Franklin County JFS, Lower Lights Christian Health Center, Southeast, Inc. and Primary One Health

Who can I contact if I have questions about the Resource Room?: Emily Fisher, Access to Care Coordinator 614-645-1244 or eefisher@columbus.gov

Number of clients served in the Resource Room - July 2016

Total served: **102**
Marketplace enrollments: **3**
Medicaid enrollments: **35**
Drop-ins Served (clients with questions or want clarification about coverage): **64**

Have you Registered for The *Embracing Health Equity* Training Series?

The Columbus Public Health *Diversity & Equity Committee* invites you to attend our next Embracing Health Equity training, "*Enhanced Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). The presenter will be* Jamoya Cox from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services His presentation will include the following:
- History of the CLAS Standards
- CLAS Standards as a strategy to help eliminate health inequities
- Tailoring services/resources to meet the needs of a population's culture and/or language
- The positive health outcomes for diverse populations when we adhere to CLAS Standards

This training will include a facilitated group discussion led by staff from the *Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity*. **Social Work CE's will be provided**.

Please register at https://goo.gl/forms/2ysd3AIEY6GEXeQx2. You can view all the topics being covered during this year's *Embracing Health Equity Series* here. Please direct questions to Malaika Brewer at MABrewer@columbus.gov.

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Watch for the next Embracing Health Equity News Blast coming your way! More at Embracing Health Equity.